

What is cryptojacking, how does it work and can people steal digital currencies such as Bitcoin?

The Sun › Lifestyle › 2 months ago



YOU'RE just getting to grips with the idea of an invisible currency - now you need to learn to protect it from theft too.

With miners trying to take advantage of the rising **cryptocurrency** industry, let us take a look at this cyber crime and find out how you can protect your valuable Bitcoins.

Investing in cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin comes with significant risks

What is cryptojacking?

Cryptojacking is the secret use of your computing device to mine cryptocurrency.

It has surged in popularity over the past few months, with hackers capitalising on the boom in everything from Bitcoins to Litecoins, Ethereum, Ripple and Iota.

Millions of users have potentially been impacted, with proceeds from the operation totalling millions of pounds a year.

Sites affected have including CBS Showtime, UFC live-streams and even official websites for the governments of Moldova and Bangladesh.

Protecting your Bitcoin could be even harder than keeping your cash safe

How does it work?

It used to happen when the victim unknowingly installed a program that secretly mines cryptocurrency.

In-browser cryptojacking uses JavaScript on a web page to mine **digital** cash.

Because JavaScript runs on almost about every website you visit, the JavaScript code responsible for in-browser mining doesn't need to be installed.

There's no immediate way to tell that the page has a hidden mining component, and you may not even notice any impact on performance, but someone has hijacked your devices for digital profit.

Can you protect your cryptocurrency from theft?

It's difficult to guide against all malicious miners, but you can have a go.

You can add sites you know practice in-browser mining or who you're worried about to your browser's ad blocking tool.

There's also a Chrome extension called No Coin, created by developer Rafael Keramidas, that blocks Coinhive mining and is adding protection against other miners, too.

Tags: hacking, bitcoin, digital, cash, cryptocurrency

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